2025 Missouri Wild Turkey Brood Survey Summary

By Nick Oakley, Wild Turkey Program Leader
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The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has tracked wild turkey hatches every year since 1959. Each summer, MDC staff and volunteers record turkey sightings to measure how well the hatch went. In 2025, observers logged **7,897 turkey sightings** in July and August. After removing duplicate or unclear reports, **4,864 sightings** were analyzed.

How the Hatch Went: Statewide poult-to-hen ratio (PHR) was 1.91 poults per hen. When calculated using the historical method, PHR was 1.03. Statewide turkey production was 2% lower than 2024, but 2% higher than the 5-year average and 6% higher than the average since 2019, when we first started using the new standardized brood analysis method. The Northwest and Ozark Border regions had good years (up 17–21% over recent averages), while the Ozarks West region saw PHR decline by about 20%.

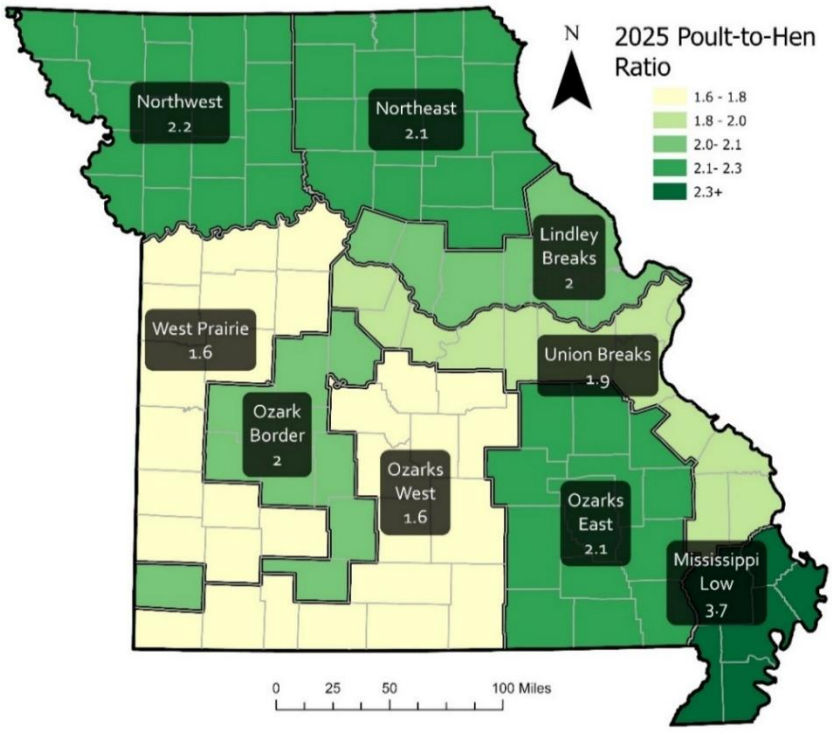

Figure 1. Regional Poult-to-hen ratios (PHR) in 2025 using the standardized brood survey protocol.

Other Interesting Stats

- Average poults per brood: 3.7 (5% decline from 2024)
- Half of hens (50%) were seen with a brood (16% increase from 2024)
- Male-to-female ratio: 0.57 (5% decline from 2025)

What It Means: A wet spring made nesting tough, but results were still solid. Six of nine regions had 2 or more poults per hen, suggesting a healthy hatch overall. As we continue to use the new, standardized brood methodology, the better we will be at understanding what "good" looks like, but for now, 1.9 poults per hen seems to mark a decent hatch.

Bottom line: Despite soggy weather, Missouri's 2025 turkey season turned out better than expected.